

UNITED STATES COAST  
GUARD MSST GALVESTON  
7707 HARBORSIDE DRIVE  
GALVESTON, TX 77554

# The Guardian

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### Moving Links:

[http://  
www.defenselink.mil/  
specials/itsyourmove/](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/itsyourmove/)

[http://www.army.mil/  
usapa/epubs/pdf/  
p55\\_2.pdf](http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/p55_2.pdf)



## Coasties Save Lives

Did you know that more than 900 donations are needed every day in 2008 to help ensure a strong blood supply is available for area patients? The need for blood donations goes beyond what people see on television and the news. Blood is needed for individuals being treated for cancer, babies that are born prematurely, individuals with anemia, and much more.

Blood donations save lives, and there is no substitute. It must come from one individual to go to another, and every donation can help save up to three

lives. That is why we should "Commit for Life" and donate at least once every quarter.

The second week in November, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center sponsored a "Commit for Life" blood drive in honor of Johnny Romano. For those



Blood donors who participated.



Johnny Romano

who don't remember, Johnny is the young man who we took out on the boats with his dad and brother. He is responding positively to all the treatment he is receiving. The blood drive was a great success; they received over 50 donations...which adds up to saving approximately 150 lives. A big thanks to all the MSST Galveston members who donated and make this drive a success.

-LTJG Ashli Blanton

## From the Helm

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and time with friends and family. We've had some really good morale events recently and I'm sure some people in particular are happy to not be wearing mustaches anymore. On the other hand, I think we got 1 or 2 converts into wearing mustaches now. Also, several people will be leaving this year and orders are coming in at a rapid pace. So far it sounds like everyone is getting a pick they are happy with. Its great to have so many positive events going on here and I am privileged to be part of it.

Thank you to the families for supporting us and especially thank you to each MSST Galveston member for making us successful in everything we do!

-LCDR Erik Leuenberger

## XO's Rant

It's quickly approaching PCS time again! The time of year when you wonder how you managed to accumulate 175 packing cartons in your home in only three years. It's never too early to start preparing your move. Relocation is part of life in the USCG that means moving yourself, your family and all your belongings to a new location somewhere in or even out of country. Moving is a big event with a lot of physical and emotional challenges that need to be handled. Like everything else in life, there's a right way to move. And doing it the right way can make a big difference in stress and your pocketbook. A great deal of

valuable information can be found at the web links to the left.

I know that I myself have had many interesting moves over the years. The most notable being driving 5 hours away from my old house realizing I'd left all my luggage on the front step. If you have any interesting stories or tips you would like to share with others that may help, or just provide a laugh, you can e-mail them to me at [Kristopher.s.fegler@uscg.mil](mailto:Kristopher.s.fegler@uscg.mil) and we'll publish them in the next newsletter. Hope to see ya'll again in the coming months.

-LT Kris Fegler



*"The leadership library will not only hold 80+ books on leadership, but also books on topics such as health promotion, finance, education, and career development."*



**GM3 Whitley riding in the 519-Mile "Ride Across Kansas"**

## Leadership Corner

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others."

-Jack Welch

The Coast Guard has 28 leadership competencies, and Coast Guard members are evaluated throughout their career on how well they utilize their leadership skills. MSST Galveston is dedicated to growing the crew's leadership skills. A website dedicated to teaching these competencies and classes for leadership development are available to our crew.

The unit recently won a Coast Guard wide leadership video contest for its rendition of "How not to delegate tasking and responsibility". The unit has also has a newly refurbished and updated Leadership Library. What do these two have in common? Well.... the prize for win-

ning the video contest was a box full of new leadership books that members can check out and read. The newly expanded library will be right outside LTJG Anna Hart's office. The bookshelf will also hold Educational Services information.



**Crewmembers VI onto CGC DAUNTLESS**

The leadership library will not only hold 80+ books on leadership, but also books on topics such as health promotion, finance, education, and career development. There are also DVDs on a variety of topics, as well as the Rosetta Stone Language Program CDs in Spanish

and Arabic. The only exception is the Rosetta Stone program. They can only be checked out for 4 weeks at a time. After 4 weeks, the member will have to bring the program in and recheck them out, unless there is a waiting list.

The leadership library will not only hold 80+ books, but also DVDs and books on topics such as health promotion.

Crew members and their families are encouraged to use the library. All you have to do is take the card from the book, write your name on it, and put it on LTJG Hart's desk. It's that simple. You can keep the book as long as you need it.

MSST Galveston is also going to start implementing the Coast Guard's Unit Leadership Development Plan. More on that will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

-LTJG Anna Hart

## Coast Guard Enlisted Association



U.S. Coast Guard  
Enlisted Association  
**LONE STAR  
BRANCH**



"With the traditions of the past, together we face the challenges of the future"

Be part of an active force for progress:  
in your Coast Guard, and in your community.

[www.cpoagalveston.org](http://www.cpoagalveston.org)

The Coast Guard Enlisted Association (CGEA) "Lone Star Branch" has great opportunities for enlisted members to associate with and learn from one another. YOU can be a part of this organization. All you need... is to say YES! And take a little of your time to participate in one of the many activities in which the Branch is involved. Volunteer to help in a community service project, help with a fund raising event, or just attend a monthly meeting once in a while. MSTC Shawn Lootens is the unit's point of contact.

-MSTC Shawn Lootens

# A Word From the Command Chief - BMC Pelland



Greetings from BMC Jeffrey Pelland, MSST Galveston's new Command Chief. I would like to thank and congratulate

MKCS Mike Krumpke on a job well done as MSST Galveston's Command Senior Chief! I have relieved Mike of his duties as he will be retiring this summer, but I do have the benefit of learning the ropes of this demanding and rewarding job from him over the next few months.

I hope all of our crew members and families enjoyed the extended Holiday leave period this past December. As members of the military attached to a deployable unit we have all spent too many Christmas's, Birthdays, and other significant events away from our loved ones and families. The command provided us an exceptional opportunity to make up for some lost time.

As we move into 2008 there are some significant career events on the horizon for our members. The May Service

Wide Exam is just around the corner and it is never too early to start studying for the test. Achieving a good score on this exam is a key step towards advancements and pay raises. We are also approaching transfer season, which means some of our good friends and shipmates will be moving on to other units. This tends to be an exciting, yet nerve racking time as we await our orders. I hope everyone here gets one of their top picks.



Finally, on a bit of a somber note, the MSST community has lost 4 members in the last 6 months. Two of the deaths have been from motorcycle accidents. I encourage and remind all of you who ride to use the proper safety gear at all times, and complete your motorcycle safety course as required by the Commandant. The other two Coasties were

lost from suicide. I ask all of you to keep an eye on your shipmates, and if you notice someone going through a hard time, please reach out to them. If you have any doubts or questions at all, let your supervisor know. In a situation like this it is better to be concerned about



***"As we move into 2008 there are some significant career events on the horizon for our members."***

## Recent Exam Completions

MK3 CHRISTOPHER CLEVINGER

-Passed his MK2 Exam

MK3 JEFFREY MARSHALL

-Passed his MK2 Exam

BM2 JASON KIFER

-Passed his SAR Fundamentals Exam

BM3 MARK STUART

-Passed his BM2 Exam

BMI ROBERT BUSBY

-Passed his Navigation Rules Exam

## Helping Those in Need - Beacon House

### BIG THANKS!!!

Due to the generosity of MSST Galveston's crew, we were able to provide a bit of holiday spirit for some needy families. For the past five years, MSST Galveston has graciously provided Christmas presents to the Beacon House, a shelter for women and children who have been victims of domestic vio-



**LTJG Blanton with volunteers from the Beacon House**

lence. This year, more than 25 toys, women and children's clothing, and over \$100 in cash were donated. Your generous gifts allowed 10 families to have a joyful holiday. Thank you all for your generous hearts and donations!!!

-LTJG Anna Hart



**Crewmembers conduct boat crew training in Galveston.**



# Ombudsman's Corner - Elaine Lee



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. We did.

There has not been much activity happening on the Ombudsman side of the unit. Everyone seems to be doing fine. There were a couple of things that did happen since the last newsletter. The first was the birth of a baby boy in the Cohen family in November and a baby girl in the West family in December. Congratulations! The next activities were the Christmas parties. The adult party was at Moody Gardens. There seemed to have been a good turn out there. The kids' party was also a success. It was held at Mr. Gatti's. The turn out of children being there was lower this year than last year. I hope we can get the attendance back up for this year. We will consider holding it at a different venue next year. Any input from families would be great.

There is another change in my schedule. I have a new school semester as well as a work schedule to pass along. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I will be working. I will usually work from 1-6:30 pm; however, these times can change. On Tuesday I will be in school from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm and 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on Thursday. You can reach me anytime before that. You can also call anytime during those times and I will call you back. If it is not an emergency, you can always email me at [gladtoobeme@verizon.net](mailto:gladtoobeme@verizon.net).

If any of you have questions, concerns, or need help please call me. That is what I am here for.

With Great Joy,

Elaine Lee  
Unit Ombudsman



**MK2 Cuellar  
and MK2  
Taylor at  
Career Day.**



## Morale Report



We've had some great morale events lately. The Christmas Party at Moody Gardens was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed a fine dinner with great company. Most of the crew went home with gifts and door prizes. Thanks to everyone who participated for making it a spectacular event.

We recently held a Chili Cook-Off with LTJG Raskie beating out BMI Martinez to take First Place. Petty Officer North won the Chicken Wing Eating Contest with 42 wings eaten in 6 minutes. Paintball was also a huge success with over 30 participants.

The unit has recently obtained a lot of morale gear that can be signed out for up to a

week at a time. In order to sign it out, please see LT Whiteside.

Upcoming morale events include a pot luck lunch, paintball, a golf tournament, and a flag football tournament. To participate, please see the Morale Officer, LT Whiteside.

-LTJG Jedediah Raskie



**HSI Sanchez,  
GM3 Thatcher,  
and the XO eat-  
ing wings. LTJG  
Raskie with his  
chili trophy.**

